

# ***The "Standby" Problem***

The worst offending term with contradictory meanings is "Standby". It has been used on computers for half a century.

Presently:

- On a copier, 'standby' is the mode when the machine is fully powered up and ready to copy (but not actually doing so).
- On some computers, 'standby' refers to a state of a small amount of power reduction.
- On other computers, 'standby' implies a large power reduction.
- In other contexts, 'Standby Power' is the energy used while a device is at its lowest power level or even nominally 'off'.

While diverse terminology may be needed for product designers, we should avoid exposing the casual user to these same terms.